INFINITY

SUPERIOR SPIDER-MAN TEAM-UP

MARVEL

RODI
DEL MUNDO

004

FINAL

DAILY BUGLE

NEW YORK'S FINEST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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INSIDE: MAGIC MISTS MAKE MIGHTY MORTALS? CARNAGE COMEBACK--THE HUNT IS ON! NO JUSTICE, SAVE PRIEST! DAREDEVIL DEFENDS!

LIGHTS OUT ON BROADWAY!

A mysterious blackout hits Times Square--and appears to be spreading. With no apparent connection to the alien invasion, could this be linked to the strange messages on the few screens left illuminated?

UNIDENTIFIED FIGHTING OBJECTS

The Avengers have gone off-world to fight an incoming space armada and Thanos has launched an attack in their absence. With so many cosmic curmudgeons inbound, it's up to heroes like Luke Cage, Spectrum, and Spider-Man to defend the planet.

ROBERT RODI — WRITER
MICHAEL DEL MUNDO — ARTIST
MIKE DEL MUNDO & MARCO D'ALFONSO — COLOR
VC'S JOE CARAMAGNA — LETTERER

PAOLO & JOE RIVERA — COVER
DEVIN LEWIS — ASSISTANT EDITOR
SANA AMANAT — EDITOR
STEPHEN WACKER — SENIOR EDITOR
AXEL ALONSO — EDITOR IN CHIEF
JOE QUESADA — CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER
DAN BUCKLEY — PUBLISHER
ALAN FINE — EXEC. PRODUCER

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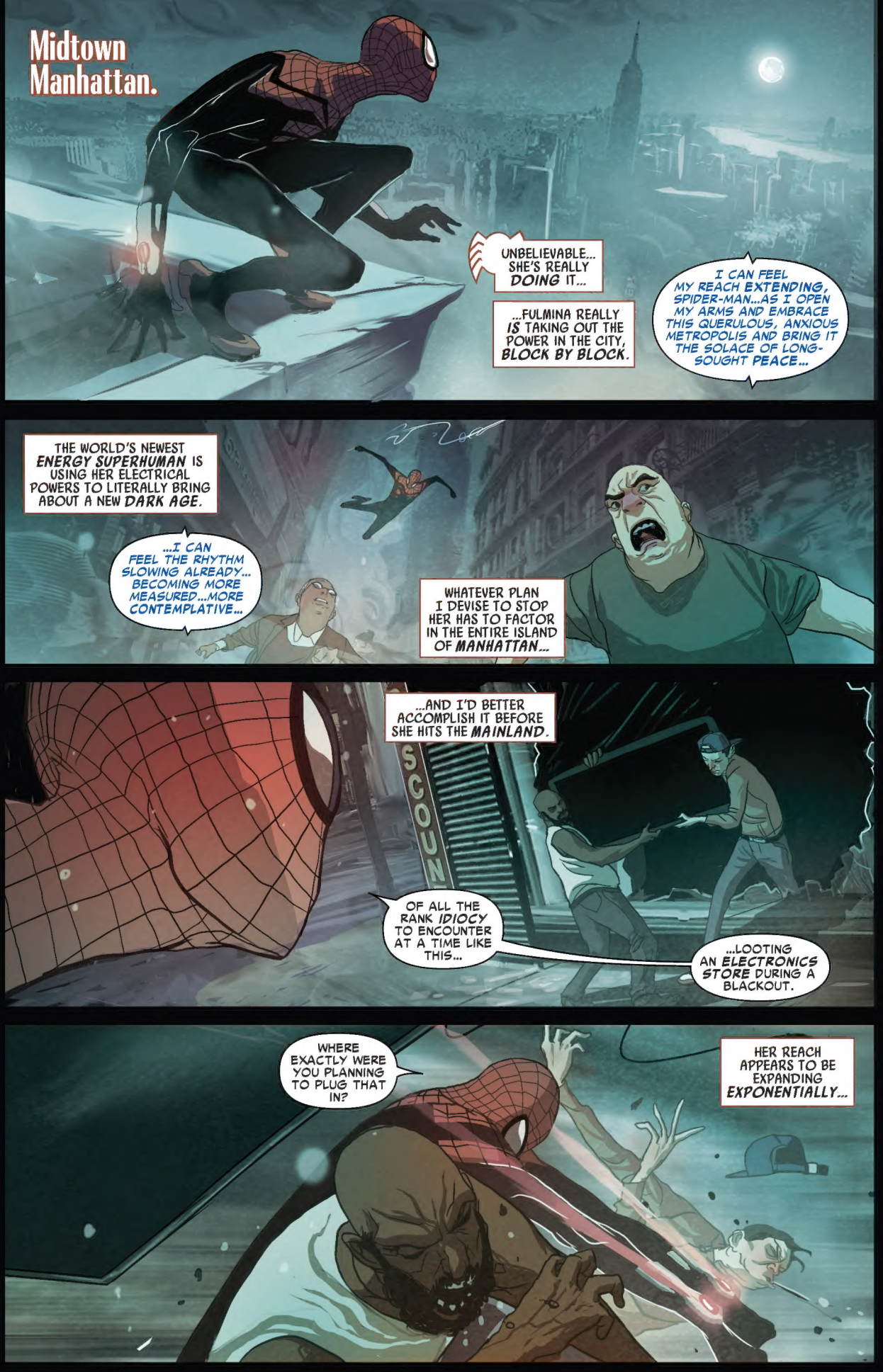
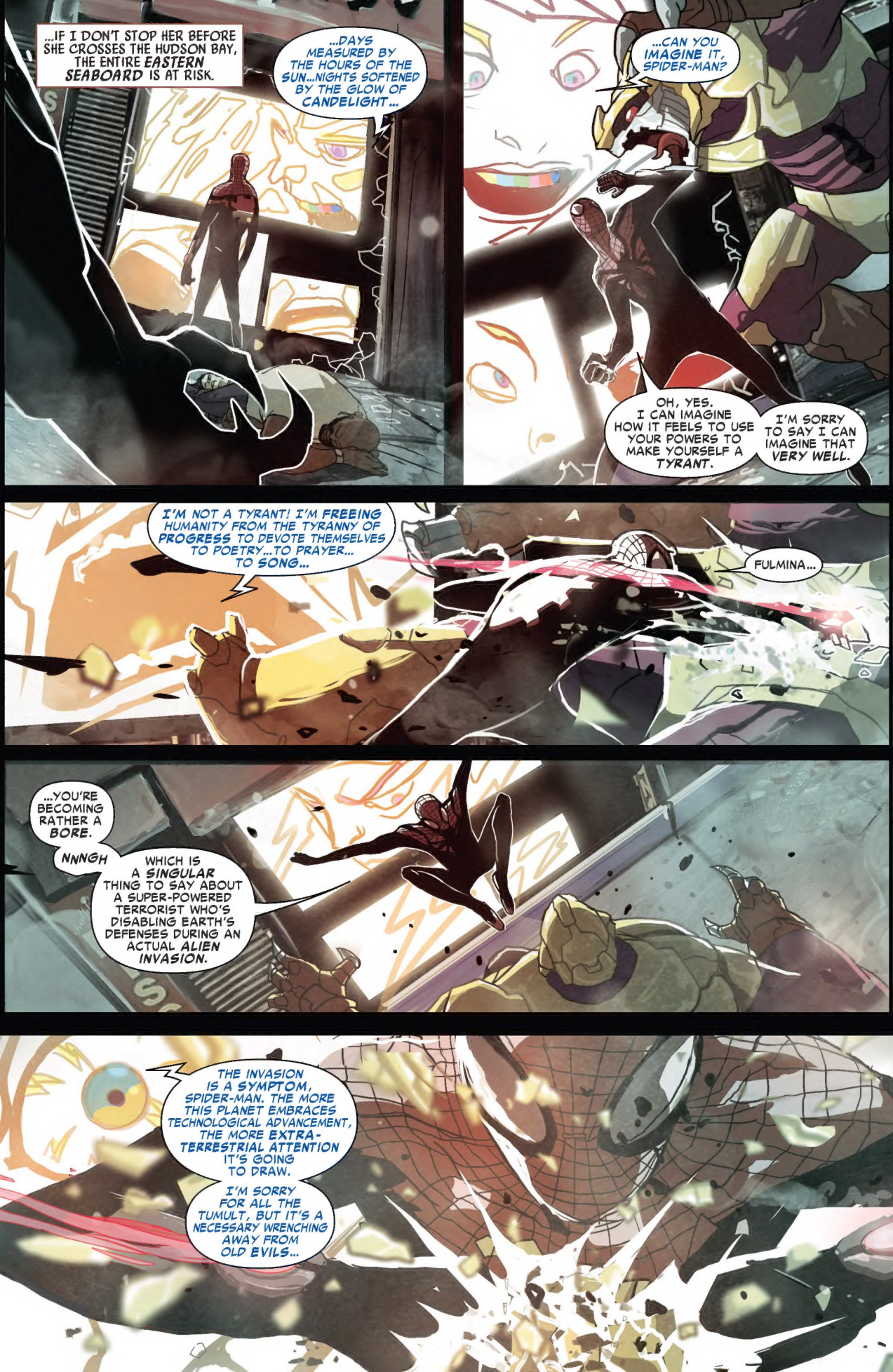
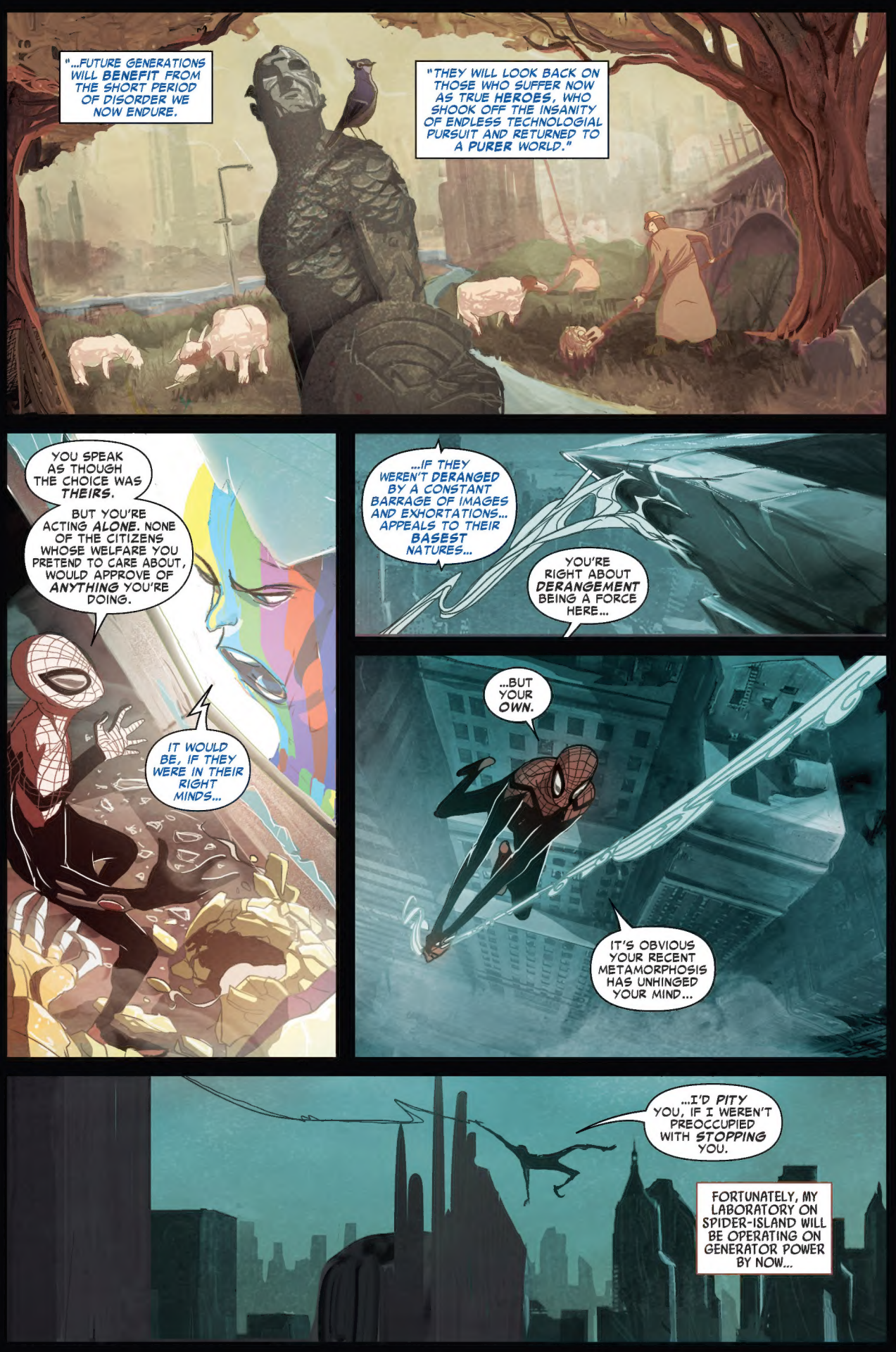

Midtown Manhattan.
UNBELIEVABLE... SHE'S REALLY DOING IT...
...FULMINA REALLY IS TAKING OUT THE POWER IN THE CITY, BLOCK BY BLOCK.
I CAN FEEL MY REACH EXTENDING, SPIDER-MAN...AS I OPEN MY ARMS AND EMBRACE THIS QUERULOUS, ANXIOUS METROPOLIS AND BRING IT THE SOLACE OF LONG-SOUGHT PEACE...
THE WORLD'S NEWEST ENERGY SUPERHUMAN IS USING HER ELECTRICAL POWERS TO LITERALLY BRING ABOUT A NEW DARK AGE.
...I CAN FEEL THE RHYTHM SLOWING ALREADY... BECOMING MORE MEASURED...MORE CONTEMPLATIVE...
WHATEVER PLAN I DEVISE TO STOP HER HAS TO FACTOR IN THE ENTIRE ISLAND OF MANHATTAN...
...AND I'D BETTER ACCOMPLISH IT BEFORE SHE HITS THE MAINLAND.
OF ALL THE RANK IDIOCY TO ENCOUNTER AT A TIME LIKE THIS...
...LOOTING AN ELECTRONICS STORE DURING A BLACKOUT.
WHERE EXACTLY WERE YOU PLANNING TO PLUG THAT IN?
HER REACH APPEARS TO BE EXPANDING EXPONENTIALLY...

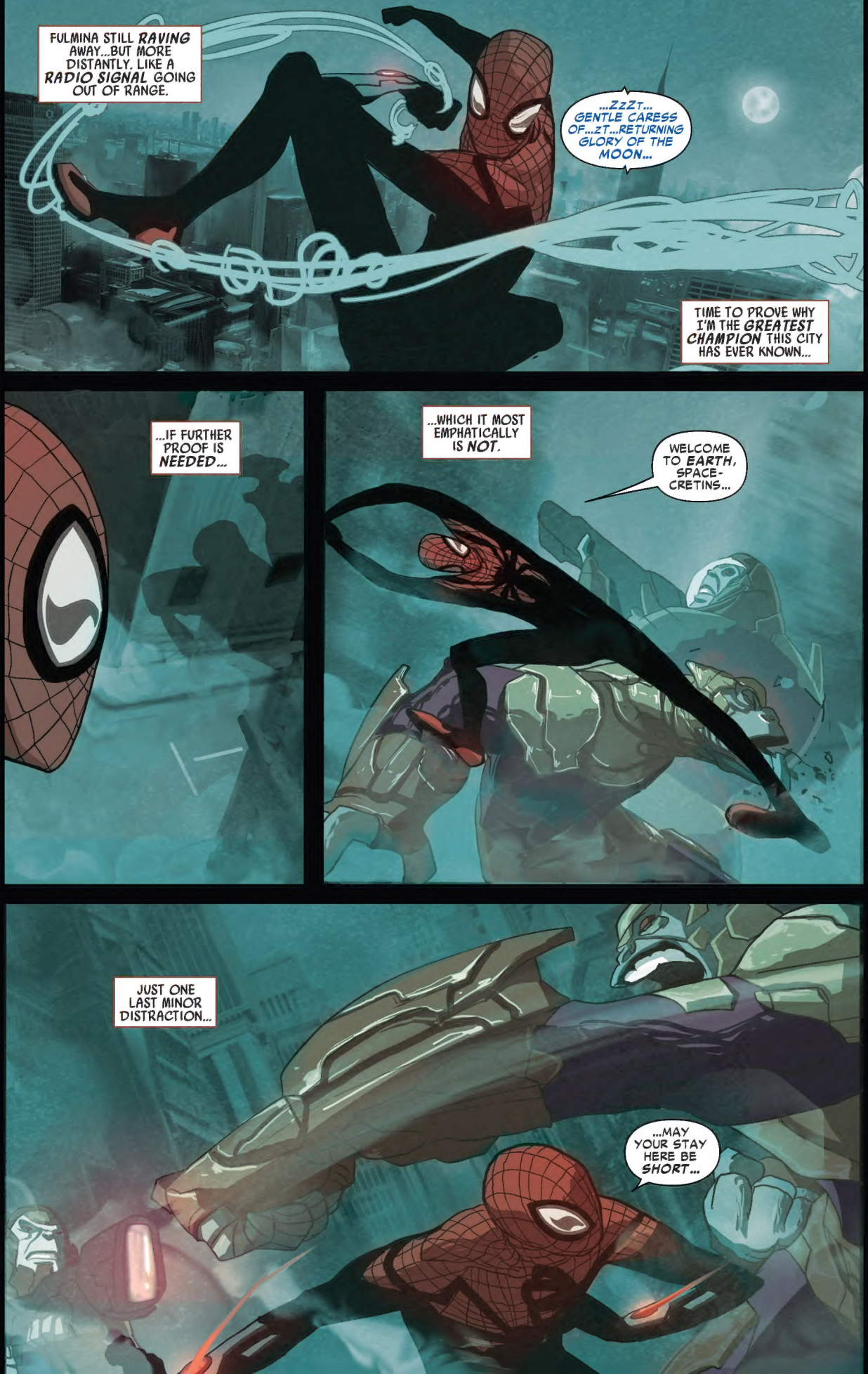

...IF I DON'T STOP HER BEFORE SHE CROSSES THE HUDSON BAY, THE ENTIRE EASTERN SEABOARD IS AT RISK.
...DAYS MEASURED BY THE HOURS OF THE SUN...NIGHTS SOFTENED BY THE GLOW OF CANDELIGHT...
...CAN YOU IMAGINE IT, SPIDER-MAN?
OH, YES. I CAN IMAGINE HOW IT FEELS TO USE YOUR POWERS TO MAKE YOURSELF A TYRANT.
I'M SORRY TO SAY I CAN IMAGINE THAT VERY WELL.
I'M NOT A TYRANT! I'M FREEING HUMANITY FROM THE TYRANNY OF PROGRESS TO DEVOTE THEMSELVES TO POETRY...TO PRAYER... TO SONG...
FULMINA...
...YOU'RE BECOMING RATHER A BORE.
NNNGH
WHICH IS A SINGULAR THING TO SAY ABOUT A SUPER-POWERED TERRORIST WHO'S DISABLING EARTH'S DEFENSES DURING AN ACTUAL ALIEN INVASION.
THE INVASION IS A SYMPTOM, SPIDER-MAN. THE MORE THIS PLANET EMBRACES TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENT, THE MORE EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL ATTENTION IT'S GOING TO DRAW.
I'M SORRY FOR ALL THE TUMULT, BUT IT'S A NECESSARY WRENCHING AWAY FROM OLD EVILS...


"...FUTURE GENERATIONS WILL BENEFIT FROM THE SHORT PERIOD OF DISORDER WE NOW ENDURE.
"THEY WILL LOOK BACK ON THOSE WHO SUFFER NOW AS TRUE HEROES, WHO SHOOK OFF THE INSANITY OF ENDLESS TECHNOLOGIAL PURSUIT AND RETURNED TO A PURER WORLD."
YOU SPEAK AS THOUGH THE CHOICE WAS THEIRS.
BUT YOU'RE ACTING ALONE. NONE OF THE CITIZENS WHOSE WELFARE YOU PRETEND TO CARE ABOUT, WOULD APPROVE OF ANYTHING YOU'RE DOING.
IT WOULD BE, IF THEY WERE IN THEIR RIGHT MINDS...
...IF THEY WEREN'T DERANGED BY A CONSTANT BARRAGE OF IMAGES AND EXHORTATIONS... APPEALS TO THEIR BASEST NATURES...
YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT DERANGEMENT BEING A FORCE HERE...
...BUT YOUR OWN.
IT'S OBVIOUS YOUR RECENT METAMORPHOSIS HAS UNHINGED YOUR MIND...
...I'D PITY YOU, IF I WEREN'T PREOCCUPIED WITH STOPPING YOU.
FORTUNATELY, MY LABORATORY ON SPIDER-ISLAND WILL BE OPERATING ON GENERATOR POWER BY NOW...

...ONCE I'VE MADE CERTAIN LUCAS CAGE AND MY OTHER COLLEAGUES HAVE MATTERS SUFFICIENTLY WELL IN HAND, I'LL BE FREE TO GO THERE.
CAGE...
...THE THREAT IS REAL. THE BLACKOUT IS WORSENING.
FORTUNATELY, THE ALIEN THREAT SEEMS LARGELY QUELLED FOR THE MOMENT. THOUGH WE CAN'T COUNT ON IT REMAINING SO.
IT'S ALL RIGHT, WEB-SLINGER...
...I'VE SENT WORD TO MONICA.
SHE'S GOT HER HANDS FULL AT THE MOMENT, BUT AS SOON AS SHE'S FREE SHE CAN JUMP INTO THE POWER GRID AND TAKE ON YOUR LITTLE PROTÉGÉ.
WHAT? WE DON'T NEED RAMBEAU BLUNDERING INTO THIS. I'M PERFECTLY CAPABLE OF HANDLING IT MYSELF.
WELL, IT DOES FALL INTO THE "CLEANING UP YOUR OWN MESS" CATEGORY.
WHAT--?
YOU HAD BETTER NOT BE ATTEMPTING TO LAY THIS CALAMITY AT MY DOOR.
WELL, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO INTRODUCED THIS FULMINA CHICK TO THE POWER GRID IN THE FIRST PLACE.
AND ANOTHER THING...
OH, LET HIM SEND YOUR LITTLE FRIEND AFTER ME, SPIDER-MAN...
QUIET, CAGE--
I'LL SNUFF HER OUT LIKE A MATCH. LIKE I'M DOING EVERYTHING ELSE...
FULMINA, I PROMISE YOU...
WHAT?... SHE'S ON YOUR HEADSET?

...THERE IS NO PLACE YOU CAN HIDE. NOT FROM ME...
YOU'RE TALKING TO HER? HAVING A FREAKIN' CONVERSATION?
WHILE SHE'S BUSY SHUTTING DOWN THE WORLD?
...I'M COMING FOR YOU. AND NOTHING...
...NOTHING WILL PREVENT ME FROM--
--FROM--
HOSPITAL BELOW...GENERATOR MUST HAVE FAILED.
LOGJAM OF AMBULANCES... EMERGENCIES...LIVES HANGING IN THE BALANCE...
...BUT CAN'T LET THE NEEDS OF A FEW CONCERN ME.
HAVE TO KEEP MY FOCUS ON THE GREATER THREAT, THE--
--THE GREATER--
DAMN.
DAMN AND BLAST. I'VE NO TIME TO SUCCUMB TO THIS KIND OF DISTRACTION.

NO TELLING WHAT THIS DETOUR HAS COST ME.
FULMINA'S POWER GROWS EXPONENTIALLY.
EVERY SECOND I DEVOTE TO ANY OBJECTIVE OTHER THAN STOPPING HER COULD BE CRITICAL.
WHAT ON EARTH CAME OVER ME? WHY DID I ALLOW MYSELF SUCH A CARELESS JUDGMENT?
AND WHY...WHY DOES SOMETHING THAT MAKES NO OBJECTIVE SENSE...
HORSE POWER
...FEEL LIKE IT MAKES ALL THE SENSE IN THE WORLD?
...SILENCES... ZZT...COMING A BLANKET OF... ZT...BLESSED RENEWAL...


FULMINA STILL RAVING AWAY...BUT MORE DISTANTLY. LIKE A RADIO SIGNAL GOING OUT OF RANGE.
...ZZZT... GENTLE CARESS OF...ZT...RETURNING GLORY OF THE MOON...
TIME TO PROVE WHY I'M THE GREATEST CHAMPION THIS CITY HAS EVER KNOWN...
...IF FURTHER PROOF IS NEEDED...
...WHICH IT MOST EMPHATICALLY IS NOT.
WELCOME TO EARTH, SPACE-CRETINS...
JUST ONE LAST MINOR DISTRACTION...
...MAY YOUR STAY HERE BE SHORT...

FAAAASH
EEEYAAAGH
...AND BITTERSWEET.
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
SMASH
...CATATONIA GOT YOUR TONGUE?
HMP. GOT TO WATCH THAT QUIPPING.
I'M STARTING TO SOUND DISTURBINGLY PARKER-ISH.
FULMINA? FULMINA, ARE YOU STILL THERE?
SPIDER-MAN...?

...I'D ALMOST FORGOTTEN YOU. YOU SEEM...SO FAR AWAY.
YOUR FRIEND RAMBEAU IS IN HERE NOW... LOOKING FOR ME.
A SAD LITTLE GIRL, LOST IN A DARK WOOD. SHE'S SO TINY...
FULMINA, TAKE MY WORD...
...FORGETTING ME WOULD BE THE BIGGEST MISTAKE YOU COULD POSSIBLY MAKE.
I'M SORRY... WASN'T THAT CLEAR...?
WHY... SPIDER-MAN, IS THAT SOME KIND OF THREAT?
HORIZON

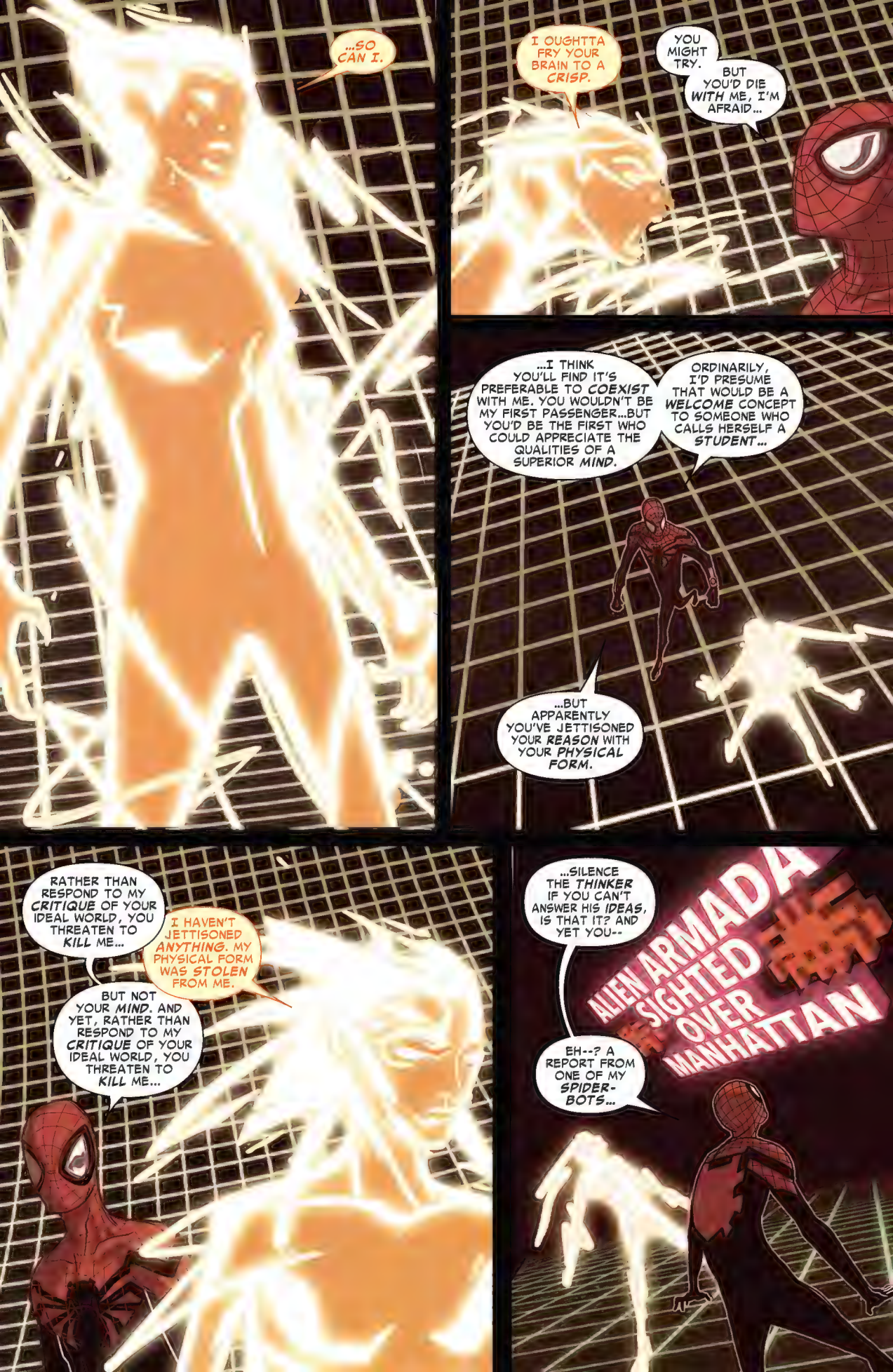
...YES, FULMINA. IT IS EVERY KIND OF THREAT.
I FOUND YOU IN CONFUSION AND I GAVE YOU CLARITY. I OFFERED YOU COUNSEL AND GUIDANCE...
...
WHICH YOU HAVE REPAID WITH RECKLESSNESS AND INGRATITUDE.
ROBOT! I NEED YOU...
+KK+ APOLOGIES, DOCTOR...
MY CHARGE IS VERY LOW. I JUDGED IT BEST NOT TO DRAIN EMERGENCY POWER IN A BLACKOUT...
WELL, THEN DON'T WASTE YOUR ENERGY TALKING...
...JUST BRING ME THE NEUROLITIC SCANNER.
+WHIRR+ +CLICK+ AS REQUESTED, DOCTOR.
LAST TIME I USED THIS, IT WAS TO PERMANENTLY ERADICATE PARKER FROM MY MINDSCAPE. THIS TIME I'LL BE DOING THE OPPOSITE.
FULMINA...?
OH, WHAT IS IT, SPIDER-MAN?...I'VE JUST JUMPED ACROSS THE RIVER TO THE BRONX. IT'S ALL SO GLORIOUS...
WELL, I'M GLAD YOU'VE ENJOYED YOUR TRIP...

...BUT UNFORTUNATELY, YOU'VE REACHED JOURNEY'S END, FULMINA.
EXCUSE ME...I MEAN SYLVIA.
WHAT-- WHERE AM I...?
YOU'RE AT THE CAFÉ DAPHNE ON WEST 81ST STREET.
OR RATHER, MY MEMORY OF IT. WHICH IS VERY GOOD. I BREAKFAST THERE FREQUENTLY.
YOU'RE IN MY MIND, SYLVIA.
NO...NOT POSSIBLE... I WAS SO LARGE--SO VAST...
YOUR SIZE IS IRRELEVANT, I'M AFRAID. YOU HAVE NO ACTUAL MASS; YOU'RE MADE OF ELECTRICITY...
...AND THE HUMAN BRAIN COMPRISES NEURONS THAT ARE LINKED BY ELECTRICITY.
I SIMPLY UPLOADED YOU INTO MY HEAD, TO SERVE THAT FUNCTION FOR MINE.
YOU'RE PART OF MY BRAINWAVES NOW.
NO--
AND, AS MENTAL ENERGY, YOU'VE REFLEXIVELY TAKEN THE FORM OF YOUR ESSENTIAL SELF.
NOT FULMINA... BUT STUDENT SYLVIA PRELL.
NO...YOU TRICKED ME...

I'D HAVE THOUGHT YOU'D WELCOME THIS. YOU TOLD ME YOU DIDN'T WANT TO BE FULMINA. YOU HATED YOUR METAMORPHOSIS.
I DID.
BUT THAT WAS BEFORE I DISCOVERED MY POWER TO REMAKE THE WORLD.
OH, YOU MEAN...
...THIS?
YES...THE WORLD WE ONCE HAD, AND LOST!
LET ME GO--PLEASE--SO I CAN FINISH THE JOB!
LET YOU GO...?

...SO YOU CAN ROLL BACK THE CENTURIES, AND RESTORE THE WORLD OF THE *MIDDLE AGES?*
A WORLD WITHOUT THE CLAMOR OF *INDUSTRY*, THE PACE OF *TECHNOLOGY*, THE BLARE OF THE *MEDIA*...
...A WORLD WITHOUT THE LOCKSTEP CONFORMITY OF THE MODERN WORLD...THE ONEROUS DUTIES OF *CITIZENSHIP*...THE BURDENS OF *PERSONAL FREEDOM*...
...A WORLD OF POVERTY AND PLAGUE...CRUDE, PRIMITIVE MEDICINE...RAMPANT SUPERSTITION... BRUTAL CLASS DIVISIONS... INCESSANT, INTERNECINE WARFARE...
...YOU WANT TO RETURN US TO *THIS?*

NO--YOU'RE TWISTING IT ALL AROUND--
--MAKING IT UGLY--
--STOP IT--
WHAT? WHAT WAS THAT?
NOTHING-- I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE--
FOR A SECOND, YOU WERE SOMEBODY ELSE...
...BUT-- BUT THAT MEANS--
--IF YOU CAN ALTER YOUR ESSENTIAL SELF IN THIS PLACE...

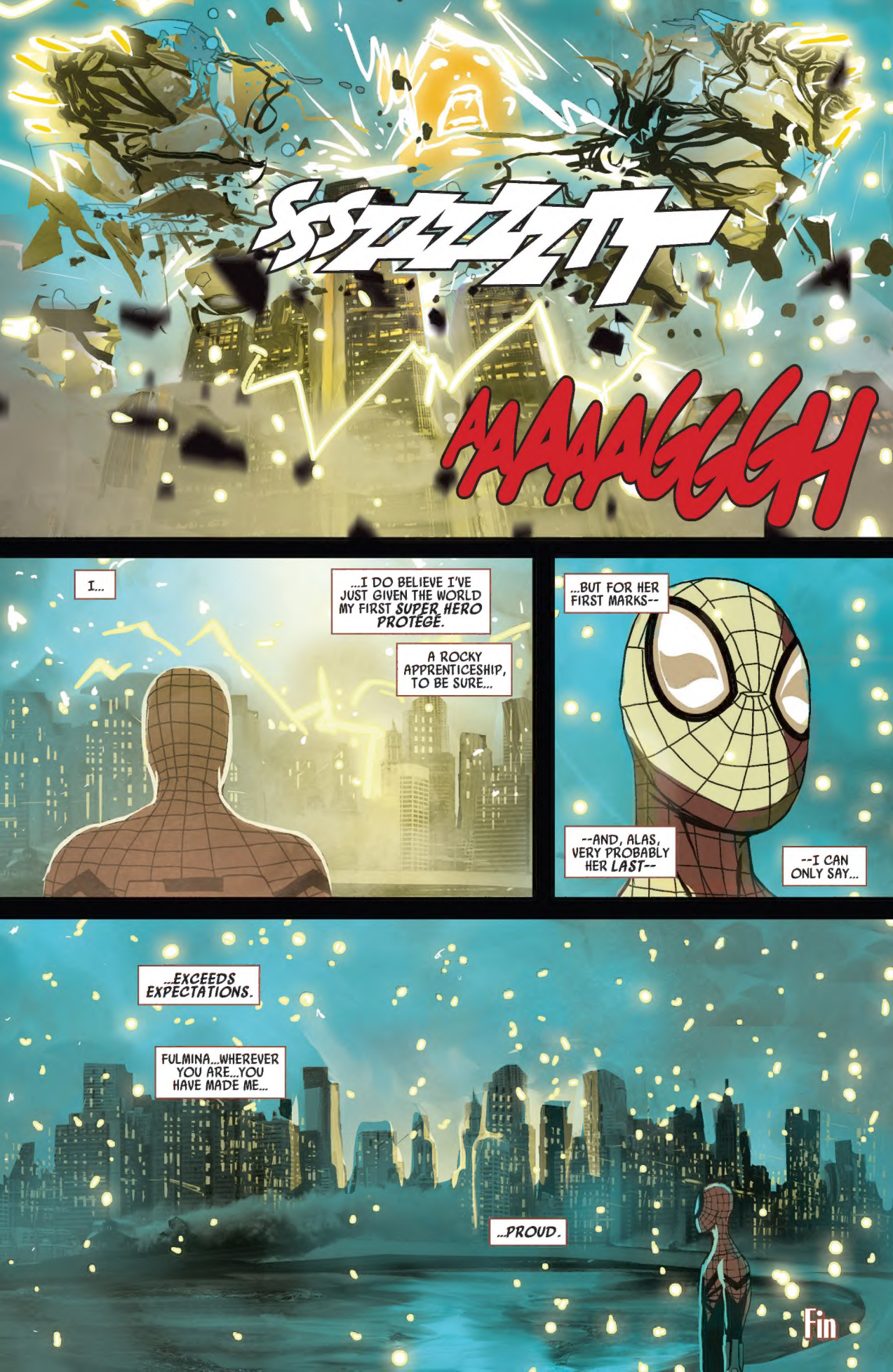

...SO CAN I.
I OUGHTTA FRY YOUR BRAIN TO A CRISP.
YOU MIGHT TRY.
BUT YOU'D DIE WITH ME, I'M AFRAID...
...I THINK YOU'LL FIND IT'S PREFERABLE TO COEXIST WITH ME. YOU WOULDN'T BE MY FIRST PASSENGER...BUT YOU'D BE THE FIRST WHO COULD APPRECIATE THE QUALITIES OF A SUPERIOR MIND.
ORDINARILY, I'D PRESUME THAT WOULD BE A WELCOME CONCEPT TO SOMEONE WHO CALLS HERSELF A STUDENT...
...BUT APPARENTLY YOU'VE JETTISONED YOUR REASON WITH YOUR PHYSICAL FORM.
RATHER THAN RESPOND TO MY CRITIQUE OF YOUR IDEAL WORLD, YOU THREATEN TO KILL ME...
I HAVEN'T JETTISONED ANYTHING. MY PHYSICAL FORM WAS STOLEN FROM ME.
BUT NOT YOUR MIND. AND YET, RATHER THAN RESPOND TO MY CRITIQUE OF YOUR IDEAL WORLD, YOU THREATEN TO KILL ME...
...SILENCE THE THINKER IF YOU CAN'T ANSWER HIS IDEAS, IS THAT IT? AND YET YOU--
ALIEN ARMADA SIGHTED OVER MANHATTAN
EH--? A REPORT FROM ONE OF MY SPIDER-BOTS...

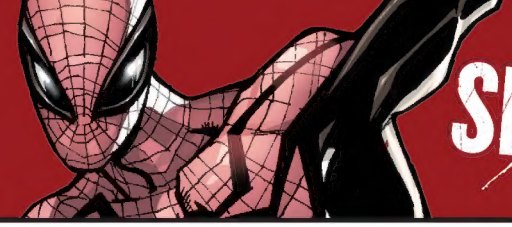
...MUST BE A SECOND WAVE OF THE INVASION!
I WAS AFRAID OF SOMETHING LIKE THIS!
...DAMN AND BLAST!
STILL DEALING WITH THE FALLOUT FROM THE FIRST ASSAULT...AND WITH THE CITY EXPOSED AND UTTERLY HELPLESS.

CAN YOU SEE THIS, FULMINA?
CAN YOU COMPREHEND THE FORCES TO WHICH YOUR SQUALID LITTLE AGRARIAN WORLD WOULD BE LEFT VULNERABLE?
THINK, WOMAN!
IT'S NOT JUST EARTH THAT HAS ADVANCED AND GROWN DENSER, DEEPER, AND MORE COMPLICATED...
...IT'S THE ENTIRE COSMOS. WE ALL EVOLVE TOGETHER, LIKE CELLS IN AN ORGANISM...
...AND THOSE WHO DON'T, GET PREYED UPON... CONSUMED BY THE REST. ULTIMATELY, IT'S NOT CULTURE THAT MATTERS A DAMN...
...IT'S LIFE.
THE FRAGILE STRAND OF BEING THAT YOUR IDEAS WOULD EXPOSE TO AN ONSLAUGHT.
IDEOLOGY CAN NEVER BE ALLOWED TO TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER SURVIVAL.

DO YOU UNDERSTAND ME, FULMINA?
LET ME GO, SPIDER-MAN...
I MEAN TO.
I'VE MADE MY CASE. YOU KNOW WHAT YOU MUST DO.
...
I DO.
I KNOW.
GOODBYE, SPIDER-MAN.

WELL...?
I'M WAITING...
AH!
ONE PROBLEM SOLVED.
NOW TO THE SMALL MATTER OF THWARTING THIS TIRESOME ARMADA.
FIRST I'LL HAVE TO--
--WHAT?
KAPOW
KAPOW
KAPOW


SSHHT
AAAAAGGGH
I...
...I DO BELIEVE I'VE JUST GIVEN THE WORLD MY FIRST SUPER HERO PROTÉGÉ.
A ROCKY APPRENTICESHIP, TO BE SURE...
...BUT FOR HER FIRST MARKS--
--AND, ALAS, VERY PROBABLY HER LAST--
--I CAN ONLY SAY...
...EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS.
FULMINA...WHEREVER YOU ARE...YOU HAVE MADE ME...
...PROUD.
Fin



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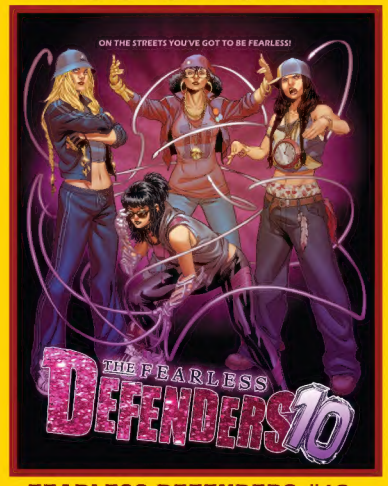
THE SUPERIOR SIX!

DON'T MISS THE EVENTS OF INFINITY!

INFINITY #4 – ON SALE NOW!

ALSO ON SALE:



FEARLESS DEFENDERS #10

SUPERIOR SPIDER-MAN #18